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"What has Barnardo done?"

An Every-Day Question

ANSWERED BY

W. J. GORDON.

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"What has Barnardo done?"

By W. J. GORDON.

DURING the twenty-eight years that have elapsed since Dr. Barnardo met with the Street "Arab" whose pitiful story set him thinking and working for the helpless and destitute of East London, he has received for charitable purposes more than a million and a half of money.

He has rescued, trained, and placed out in life some 27,000 children; he has educated and partly fed and clothed in free day and night schools children not actually destitute to the number of 63,000; he has provided outfit, passage money, and effectual supervision for 7,200 emigrants to the colonies; he has established four free lodging houses, and given home-

less women and children 200,000 free quarters and 560,000 free rations; he has established four industrial brigades, and aided to an independent livelihood 6,200 of the boys who have passed through them; he has sent 3,100 sick children to his seaside homes; and he has provided 1,320,000 free hot breakfasts and dinners during the winters to children of the labouring class out of work. He has established six mission halls, in which he has had ten million attendances; he has also established two coffee palaces, in which he has refreshed and entertained over five million people; he has organised a guild of deaconesses whose house-to-house visitations exceed 20,000 a-year; and last, but not least, he has founded a free medical mission, in which thousands of cases are dealt with and an enormous number of prescriptions are dispensed annually. Out of over £1,500,000

received, he has spent on buildings—on sites and buildings which have from the very outset been handed over to trustees—£200,000, and in addition to this he has freehold land and buildings in Canada to the value of £22,000.

Every year his work increases, and as his good report goes all over the world so do the subscriptions come in from the uttermost corners. Last year (1893) he had 82,709 separate donations; and 54,460 of these were in sums under a sovereign, and only 2,100 were of £10 and over. The increase in his revenue is as regular and continuous as its distribution. Last year he received 8,713 applications and dealt with in all the enormous number of 13,418 children, maintaining and educating no fewer than 6,847 children in his Homes; and his death-rate for the year was only a little over 4½ per 1,000.

The different branches of this immense organisation for well-doing now exceed fifty in number. First there is the Home for Working and Destitute Lads at from 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, where the General Offices are also situated. During the second year of the work, from July, 1867, to July, 1868, the income here was £214, and the letters written in regard to it averaged about three a week. In 1893 the income was £134,054, and the letters and parcels received were 154,735, the parcels alone representing over 95,000 separate articles.

Here no destitute child is refused admission; but inquiry always follows, and, in order that imposture may be minimised, this inquiry is stringent and thorough. The rule is, "Admit first; inquire afterwards." The admission is without payment, or promise of money, or patronage, or voting or

election, and the doors are open day and night.

In the main building there is accommodation for 400 boys of from 13 to 16 years of age, who sleep in four dormitories containing a hundred each. The rest of the building is mainly devoted to class-rooms and workshops. Twelve different trades and handicrafts are here taught under proper instruction. Besides the shops and the schoolrooms there is a large recreation hall fitted up as a gymnasium; and below-stairs is a tiled swimming-bath, close to which is the lavatory, where the slabs are of thick glass and the water-jets high enough to give each boy a shower-bath.

The smaller boys have an establishment to themselves — Leopold House Orphan Home, at 199, Burdett Road. The very little boys from 5 years old to 10 are away at Gorey in Jersey, where

they have a peculiarly healthy resort, with the common by the sea for a playground.

Having thus accounted for 970 boys from 5 years old to 16, let us return to Stepney Causeway. At Nos. 6, 8, and 10 in this street you can obtain admission at any time. "For twenty years the lamp of No. 10 has burnt all night long in token of welcome to homeless applicants, for whom a bed and food are always ready." In these three houses 5,383 boys and girls slept in 1893, and the free meals given the applicants at the All Night Refuge numbered 14,651.

But the open door is not only for the little ones. In Commercial Road is the Labour House for Destitute Youths, where lads of from seventeen upwards are sheltered and tested for a few months, and if found to be honest, decent, and industrious, have situations found for them. Since this branch was started

twelve years ago, 3,500 lads have been helped, and given a fresh start in life.

The houses we have as yet mentioned are on the barrack system; for the girls, the cottage method is employed. At Barkingside, near Ilford, there is a model village of some 50 separate cottages, and five larger households, with accommodation for nearly a thousand inmates, each cottage being supervised by a "mother," who has from 16 to 25 girls under her charge. This charming little settlement has lately been made more complete by the addition of one of the prettiest of Children's Churches, to be followed in due time, it is hoped, by a hospital and new schools.

Another brigade of the Barnardo army is encamped at Sturge House, in the Bow Road, where there is a Free Registry and Home for Servants, whence about 400 are sent to situations in a year

or helped in other ways. For older girls there is another shelter in Alfred Street, Bow Road; and then, as coping with another difficulty, there is a Factory Girls' Club and Institute at Limehouse. In addition to these there is the Beehive in Mare Street, Hackney, to which go the girls above the Ilford age; and, further, there is the Rescue Home.

The infants used to be sent to Ilford, but there is no room for them there now, and to see them you must journey to Babies' Castle at Hawkhurst in Kent, where you will find over 100 in residence, some of them very young indeed. Among the nearly 200 little mites dealt with last year only three deaths occurred.

Yet another branch is Her Majesty's Hospital, in Stepney Causeway. Here there are 74 cots. The in-patients for 1893 numbered 736, while the out-patients brought the total cases up to nearly 5,000,

which shared no less than 498 separate diseases amongst them! Such is the multitude of our ailments, or the mystery of their classification!

Then, also in Stepney Causeway, is the City Messenger Brigade, over 100 strong, and of much the same class is the Shoeblack Brigade at Limehouse. With these we may group the Burdett Dormitory, in Burdett Road, where 60 or 70 lads sleep every night, and which is also used as an overflow branch from the Stepney and other Homes.

Then there are the Children's Free Lodging-Houses, which last year provided 49,000 free meals, and 41,000 free beds for those for whom no other door was open, save the casual ward or the common lodging-house. At these two houses, girls and young women in absolute want are sheltered, children are given a temporary refuge, and those who have

wandered from home are restored to their friends. Another outpost is in Grove Road, where the Children's Fold receives 120 little boys of 10 and under, until they are moved on to Leopold House. In Copperfield Road are the well-known Free Schools for the children of the district, nearly 830 of whom are under instruction in the week day, while the Sunday attendance is nearly 2,700. At these schools 35,000 free meals were supplied in 1893, besides over 6,000 gifts of clothes.

In addition to all this, a vast amount of mission work is carried on among the men and women. There is the People's Mission Church at the Edinburgh Castle, which twenty years ago was a notorious gin-shop and music-hall, where the year's return shows nearly 330,000 attendances at the services, and over 110,000 attendances at the temperance, social and educational meetings with a P.S.A. of 842 members.

Then there are St. Ann's Gospel Hall, the Earl Cairns Mission Hall, the Gloucester Place Mission Hall, and the East End Medical Mission in Shadwell, where the patients number nearly 9,000 a year, and the prescriptions dispensed exceed 20,000. Besides all these there is the Deaconess Institute in Mile End Road, in connection with which about 1,400 religious services are held during the year, in addition to the distribution of 9,000 free orders for food, and hospital, and other tickets. The work also includes two coffee palaces, which are practically run as workmen's clubs, one of them having a good gymnasium.

But these are mere offshoots, necessary and natural; the main work is with the children. Of these 1,355 were last year boarded out in 110 rural centres, while over 300 of the weakly were treated for a change of air at the convalescent home

at Felixstowe. Farther to the north of this, at Yarmouth, is one of the shipping agencies from which some of the bigger boys are found situations on fishing-smacks and small coasters. Another of these shipping agencies is at Cardiff, where berths are mostly obtained for them on long-voyage trading vessels.

In other situations in this country, 1,587 girls and boys were placed; and these beginners in life are not lost sight of, but are encouraged to continue in touch with the institution, and one of the not least interesting events at the annual meetings is the distribution of prizes to some 300 or more old boys and girls who have kept their situations with credit, some of them for nine years.

But a large number of those that pass through the homes leave the country as emigrants. These are said to be "the flower of the flock"; only those are sent

who are in robust physical and mental health, who have proved themselves to be honest, and virtuous, and who have been specially trained for colonial life.

In Canada the Homes have three emigration centres. In 1893 no fewer than 758 boys and 76 girls were sent across the Atlantic to swell the army of similar young colonists, of whom over 98 per cent. were doing credit to themselves and their training and supervision, for these newcomers are not simply placed in situations immediately and left to shift anyhow. Their work and whereabouts are known for years, and they are visited and corresponded with until they are of an age to be left to their own guidance. The girls go to Peterborough in Ontario, and are mostly placed out in service, for which they have been carefully prepared; the younger boys go to Toronto; the elder are passed on direct to Russell in

Manitoba to work on the Industrial Farm of 10,000 acres until they become able, under a special colonisation scheme, arranged with the Canadian Government, to take up a settlement of their own. All the emigrants do not go to Canada ; some 440 odd have journeyed to the Cape and Australia, but these have either gone individually or in small groups. Under the operation of this scheme over 7,200 trained boys and girls have already left the Homes for lives of new opportunity over the seas. The Canadian scheme is now worked with large parties numbering over a hundred at a time, and thus no moral influence is lost by too early a relaxation of the leading strings.

The secret, in fact, of this great success is the continuance of tone until the character is fully formed. The religious teaching throughout is on broad Protestant lines, and the candidates and their

friends, or guardians, when discoverable, are told this while the inquiries are being made. But occasionally these guardians are content to mislead and keep their religion in the background until it pays them to declare it. Then it is that we may hear of *habeas corpus*, and the vexatious legal proceedings arise, which happily have cost the charity nothing up to the present, inasmuch as their expense has been borne by a fund specially subscribed for the purpose among a select few, which fund has always had a balance on the right side.

And in fact every penny subscribed for the Homes goes to the Homes and is accounted for in detail, as are all the amounts received from the industries and other sources ; and every branch has its separate account of income and expenditure, the whole being audited by the first firm of auditors in the world.* The daily

* Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., of 41, Coleman Street, London, E.C., have annually audited the accounts of the Institutions for many years.

expense of keeping all the branches going is of course heavy: it is never less than £250, of which £140 is required for food. A large amount; but consider what is achieved with it!

Average out the cost per head of the recipients of this truly practical charity, and compare it with what is met with in so many quarters elsewhere. Send £10 to Dr. Barnardo, and you will defray the entire cost of emigrating a boy or girl, and placing him or her in suitable employment in Ontario, including outfit, rail fares, and ocean passage. Send him £13 10*s*., and you defray the entire cost of supporting a boy or girl boarded out in some rural district. Send him £16, and you support a healthy child in his homes for a year. In short, a child is fed, clothed, lodged, and educated in Dr. Barnardo's Homes for less than tenpence three-farthings a day.

(*Abridged, by permission, from an article in "The Sunday at Home."*)

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(1) Where Money, Stocks, or Securities are concerned.

I give and bequeath unto the Director or Treasurer for the time being of the various Institutions in East London and elsewhere known as "Dr. Barnardo's Homes and Mission," the Office of which is situated in Stepney Causeway, London, E., the sum of £ sterling, free of Legacy Duty. And I direct that the receipt of the Director or Treasurer for the time being of the said Institutions shall be a sufficient discharge for the said legacy which is to be applied to the general purposes of the said Institutions.

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[The Will or Codicil must be signed by the Testator, in the presence of two Witnesses, who must be present at the same time, and subscribe their names in his presence, and in the presence of each other.]

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£16 will support one *healthy* child for a whole year in any of our LONDON HOMES;

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£30 will maintain one bed in HER MAJESTY'S HOSPITAL FOR WAIF CHILDREN for twelve months;

£15 will keep a *sick boy or girl* in HER MAJESTY'S HOSPITAL or at our CONVALESCENT SEASIDE HOME for six months;

£10 will pay for the complete outfit and passage money of one child EMIGRATED to either of our BRANCH HOMES in *Ontario*, Canada; £60 will do the same for six children;

£12 will outfit and emigrate a trained youth to our INDUSTRIAL FARM in *Manitoba;*

£140 PER DAY is required to feed *the whole of our large family*, numbering nearly **5,000** individuals, among whom are many sick, crippled, blind, and deaf and dumb.

Two Forms of Bequest are given on page **3** of Cover.

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